

FOUR WINDS CEREMONY

The dancers enter the circle from the east as the drum plays a thunder role. Each takes their place, with the south leading in a short-quick step, going counter-clockwise around the circle. Dancers with the pipe follow the east wind and start dancing at the east, then go around the circle until they reach east again. When winds are in place, and dancers begin dancing, drum starts slower traditional beat. All movement around the circle is in the counter-clockwise direction.

When Dancers with pipe reach the next wind, the drum sounds three heavy beats.

Medicine Man To the East Wind,
where the sun comes in the morning,
so the Indian may have light for the coming day's activities,
we ask thy courage,
oh mighty East Wind

Dancers with pipe offer pipe to dancer at the east when the word "courage" is said, then together raise pipe on the words "oh mighty East Wind".

Dancers with pipe dance around to the west wind, as drum continues traditional beat.

When Dancers with pipe reach next wind, the drum sounds three heavy beats.

Medicine Man To the West Wind,
where the sun goes at night,
so the Indian may have rest for the next day's activities,
we ask thy wisdom,
oh mighty West Wind

Dancers with pipe offer pipe to dancer at the east when the word "wisdom" is said, then together raise pipe on the words "oh mighty West Wind".

Dancers with pipe dance around to the north wind, as drum continues traditional beat.

When Dancers with pipe reach next wind, the drum sounds three heavy beats.

Medicine Man To the North Wind,
Great cold maker,
friend of the winter Indian,
we ask thy Purity,
oh mighty North Wind

Dancers with pipe offer pipe to dancer at the east when the word "purity" is said, then together raise pipe on the words "oh mighty North Wind".

Dancers with pipe dance around to the south wind, as drum continues traditional beat.

When Dancers with pipe reach next wind, the drum sounds three heavy beats.

Medicine Man To the South Wind,
where the sun stands at noontime,
so the Indian's crops may have light to grow,
we ask thy strength,
oh mighty South Wind

Dancers with pipe offer pipe to dancer at the east when the word "strength" is said, then together raise pipe on the words "oh mighty South Wind".

Dancers with pipe dance around to the north again, with traditional drum beat.

When the drum sounds three heavy beats, all dancers face the fire on their knees, arms stretched low.

Medicine Man To Akima,
Mother Earth,
from which the Indian came,
and to which he shall return upon dying
we ask thy blessing,
oh mighty Akima

Dancers with pipe dance around to the south, with traditional drum beat.

When the drum sounds three heavy beats, all dancers face the fire, arms raised with the pipe.

Medicine Man To Wankan Tonka,
The Great Spirit,
Chief of us all,
we ask that you be with us as we council here this evening

Dancers with pipe then run counter-clockwise to the west and out, as the drum plays a thunder role, with the south wind falling in behind them, then the east, then the north and west, all moving in a counter-clockwise direction around the circle and exiting to the west.